EDITORIAL

A controversy has recently come to fruition between Penn State and Pennsylvania's Master Plan for Higher Education. This is to clue Behrend in on what's happening.

The Master Plan has recommended that Community Colleges should be the means for providing two-year educational opportunities, that no new Penn State branch campuses be approved, and that existing branch campuses be combined with or converted into community colleges wherever possible.

Erie A. Walker, president of the Pennsylvania State University, feels that the consultants who formed this plan were biased toward Community Colleges, and never even looked at the Penn State Commonwealth System very closely.

Walker is calling for a new unbiased committee to re-investigate the Commonwealth system. If the State Board of Education feels it is beyond its capability to call such a committee he himself would invite such a group to come to Pennsylvania to make a study.

Walker noted that Penn State has for many years planned its whole future development in terms of the increasing role of its nineteen branches, and he feels that any change in the status of the Commonwealth Campuses now "would be a step backward rather than forward."

The present nineteen campuses are all located in areas where the need for their existence has been clearly established. The University owns the land and buildings, and is responsible for maintaining them.

Walker has pointed out that the quality of commonwealth Campus education is very high. "It is fair to say that, on a national basis, Penn State Commonwealth Campus students are better prepared to complete their baccalaureate programs at the main campus than are their counterparts elsewhere."

The Office of Student Affairs Research this year concluded that "No significant differences were found between the average performances of the Penn State Transfer student and students who started at the main campus."

This is a percentage graph of two-year transfer students graduating within three years after transfer to ten major universities.

%... 30...40...50...60...70

Penn State [redacted]

Georgia [redacted]

California (Los Angeles) [redacted]

California (Berkeley) [redacted]

Texas [redacted]

Michigan [redacted]

Florida [redacted]

Kansas [redacted]

Washington [redacted]